



# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020 • ₹70.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION



READ SHARE FOLLOW  
newindianexpress.com  
facebook.com/newindianexpress  
twitter.com/newindianexpress  
instagram.com/newindianexpress



## PETROL PRICES UP BY ₹4.52, DIESEL BY ₹4.64 IN 8 DAYS

Price of petrol went up by ₹0.62 and that of diesel by ₹0.64 as fuel prices were hiked for the eighth day in a row on Sunday

## FUEL DEMAND PICKS UP AS INDIA UNLOCKS

On March 16, facing a dip in domestic demand for oil and a slump in international benchmark prices, the oil companies had stopped daily fuel price revision, despite a hike in excise duty by the government two days earlier. But the daily price revision resumed 82 days later on June 7 as the coronavirus lockdown started easing and the demand for fuel picked up

## HIT BY INCREASES IN EXCISE DUTY

The hike in prices has added to the burden on consumers, who are already reeling under extensive layoffs and wage cuts  
Analysts say the two hikes in excise duties—which added ₹13 to the cost of petrol and ₹16 to that of diesel—sat heavily on oil companies, which avoided raising prices so far due to low demand

₹70.39

THE RETAIL PRICE OF ONE LITRE OF DIESEL IN BENGALURU ON SUNDAY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VILAYATWADA • BENGALURU • KOLCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOTTAI • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUSANESWAR • SHIMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPORE • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARAMANGAL • TADIPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUVARUR • KALABURGI

## EXPRESS READ

### Earthquake shakes parts of Gujarat

Ahmedabad: An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude shook Gujarat on Sunday night, with no major damage to property or life. But some houses in Kutch and nearby districts developed cracks.

### India Inc's foreign borrowings dip 68.5%

Mumbai: Overseas borrowings by Indian companies dipped 68.5 per cent to \$996.04 million in the month of April, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Atlanta top cop quits over black man's killing

Atlanta: The police chief of this US city resigned on Sunday after a white officer fatally shot a black man on Friday night. The killing sparked a wave of anti-racism protests here. **P9**

WITH THIS ISSUE  
**edex**  
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST  
YOUR LIFE COACH  
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF EDEX (TABLET) & 4 PAGES CITY EXPRESS

# SHAH STEPS IN TO RAMP UP DELHI'S COVID DEFENCES

Union Home minister reviews situation with L-G, CM; all-party meet today

SANA SHAKIL & SIDDHANTA MISHRA @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday stepped in to ramp up the fight against the coronavirus in the national Capital, where it is growing at an exponential pace. He announced a slew of measures, including more testing and boosting hospitalisation capacity.



Doubling Covid-19 testing, converting 500 railway coaches into well-equipped Covid-19 care centres to enhance Delhi's bed capacity by 8,000, directing private hospitals to offer 60% of beds dedicated for coronavirus patients at a cheaper rate were the key decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Shah. After doubling Delhi's testing capabilities within the next couple of days, it will be tripled after six days.

According to the Delhi government's recent submission in the Delhi High Court, the combined

### More testing, more beds...

Delhi's testing capacity to be doubled over the next two days  
500 railway coaches to be converted into Covid care facilities. This will add about 8,000 beds  
60% of beds set aside for Covid patients in private hospitals to be available at a cheaper price

daily testing capacity of 40 labs — 17 public and 23 private — is 8,600 per day.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal participated in the meeting with Shah.

For effective contact tracing in containment zones, a comprehensive house-to-house health survey of every person will be done and its report submitted in a week. The number of containment zones in the city has risen from 122 on June

1 to 242. For proper monitoring, Shah said, the Aarogya Setu app will be downloaded in every person's mobile phone.

"In view of shortage of beds, the Modi government will provide 500 coaches equipped with all facilities," he added. Shah said the government will issue new guidelines for conducting the last rites of those who succumb to the virus so as to help reduce the waiting period for the funeral.

Shah also announced that a joint team of doctors from the Union health ministry, Delhi government's health department, AIIMS and the three Municipal Corporation of Delhi will visit all Covid-designated hospitals in the city to evaluate the situation. To help speed up the fight against Covid, four senior IAS officers were transferred to the Delhi government on Sunday.

Soon after the meeting, Kejriwal government pulled up its socks, ordering officials to set up 20,000 more beds in a week. Shah will hold an all-party meet on Monday at 11 am. The parties include AAP, Congress, BJP, BSP and SP. **P4, S7**



## PRAYER IN THE AGE OF COVID

Worshippers keep distance as they attend a drive-in mass organised by Bethel AG Church in Bengaluru on Sunday amid the ongoing lockdown | **SHRINANI | REPORT ON P2**

# No plan to have another lockdown, says minister



The mortality rate is not alarming as only 86 people have died. While it is 1.1% in Karnataka, the national average is 2.8%. People need not be afraid, but should exercise caution  
Dr K Sudhakar, Karnataka Medical Education Minister

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AMID speculation over reimposition of the lockdown, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday stressed that there is no such proposal before the State Government.

Chairing a meeting of officials to review the steps taken to control spread of Covid-19 in Karnataka, Dr Sudhakar pointed out that the recovery rate in the state is more than satisfactory and the mortality rate too is less than the country's average.

"When such is the case, where is the question of imposing the lockdown again? These are just rumours," he said.

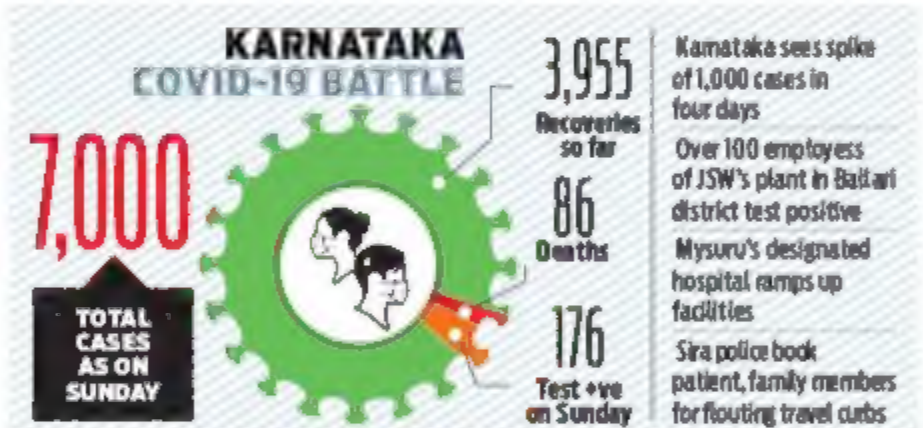
Amid rising cases infections, there was apprehension that the lockdown may be clamped down again as Prime Minister

Narenbra Modi is scheduled to talk to Chief Ministers on June 16 and 17.

"On June 17, our state will be taking part in it around 3 pm, where the current situation will be discussed", he said.

So far, 7,000 people in the state have been infected with Covid-19 of whom 3,955 have been cured and discharged from hospitals. The recovery rate is over 54 per cent and there are 2,956 active cases, he pointed out.

"The mortality rate is not alarming as only 86 people have died. While it is 1.1 per cent in Karnataka, the national average is 2.8 per cent. People need not be afraid, but should exercise caution," he said. Across the state, 71 laboratories are conducting swab tests of symptomatic patients, the minister added.



# In corona times, doctors give blood to fight shortage

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

DOCTORS at Victoria Hospital here, who are on the front lines in the war against Covid-19, are fighting a battle on another flank too — dealing with shortage of blood.

Due to the lockdown, no blood donation camps were held over the past few months and blood banks across the city were facing a severe shortage. The one at Victoria Hospital was left with only six bags of blood on June 6. Realising the gravity of the situation, the resident doctor, along with other undergraduate and postgraduate students at the hospital, took the lead to donate blood.

Though the hospital did not require blood, as it has become a designated Covid-19 hospital, the demand from other hospitals was high and other blood banks were running short of blood.

The moment the doctors were alerted, they decided to form groups and donate blood. Over the past week, the Victoria Hospital blood bank has collected about 35-40 pints of blood.

CONTINUED ON P5

# Sulking Cong unit puts Uddhav govt on notice

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A sulking Maharashtra Congress has put the three-party coalition government, led by Uddhav Thackeray, on notice, saying it would no longer accept playing a junior role in power sharing and decision-making. Sources said Congress chief Sonia Gandhi went to the extent of advising the state unit to take the call on walking out of the alliance if it continues to be loaded against it.

Senior party leader Ashok Chavan said that keeping the BJP out of power should not read as weakness, adding the voices of Congress ministers are not heard in the Thackeray government. "I am confident that the Chief Minister will address all these issues and fair and equitable distribution of power will happen in the coalition," he claimed.

Sources in Congress griped about ally NCP fielding its second candidate, Fauzia Khan, for the Rajya Sabha polls without

consulting it. "Also, when elections to the nine vacant seats in the state legislative council were held, all three parties in the coalition could have fielded two candidates each. But the Congress was forced to give the ticket to only one, because Thackeray insisted on an unopposed election.

We were forced to withdraw the second candidate's name. We went along because the CM promised an equal share of power," said a senior Congress leader. In the end, the Maha Vikas Aghadi picked up five, and the BJP four seats without a contest.

Now, 12 state legislative council seats in the Governor's quota are up for grabs. "Each of the three ruling parties should get four seats. But we have been told that the Congress will get only three, while the Shiv Sena and the NCP will get five and four respectively, based on their strength in the Assembly. This is completely unfair. Why should the Congress tolerate it?" he added.



GONE TOO SOON

# Sushant was a talented actor of science & faith, and a searching human being

SHILAJIT MITRA

My first assignment as an entertainment journalist in Mumbai was an interview of Sushant Singh Rajput. It was June 2017, a few days before the release of *Raazi*. Too young to be made an anchor, I was relegated to the task of assistant cameraman. The setup I was handed (and barely knew how to operate) was a small, rigged iPhone — not a bulky TV camera typically used on such shoots. As Sushant settled down with his co-star Kriti Sanon, he cast a curious look in my direction. "iPhone shoot?" he wondered aloud. I might have thought he may look down on it, but then, he added, "How cool."

Sushant was ever a man of the future. The actor was always seeking out new paths, new innova-

tions. He shared a deep love for science and cosmology, and his film choices were marked by this need to experiment. He started out on television, debuting in the romantic show *Kis Desh Mein Hai Meri Dill* and later breaking out with the household hit *Pavitra Rishta*. The restrictive nature of Indian soap operas is well known, but Sushant was already making a mark. Asked about his impressions of the actor, director Dibakar Banerjee later commented that he found him 'understated on TV', which, as anyone can tell you, is a miracle in itself.

This knack for restraint was evident in his big screen debut, *Kai Po Che!*, where he played the inflammable ex-cricketer Ishaan. Lean and bewhiskered, Sushant soared over Abhishek Kapoor's dusty friendship drama, announc-

ing himself as the next big thing in Bollywood. Two big-bannered vehicles followed — *Shuddh Desi Romance*, *PK* — and for a while, his journey seemed resigned to the beats of mainstream stardom.

Sushant, though, responded with an astonishing choice, appearing as the newest iteration of the 20th century Bengali sleuth in Dibakar's *Detective Byomkesh Bakshi*. It was a matter of great cultural debate — and I had my own reservations against the film's narrative as well as his performance. Yet, there was no denying that this was a good kind of a shake-up.



SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT  
21-01-1986  
• 14-06-2020

## NO SUICIDE NOTE FOUND, SAY POLICE

Sushant Singh Rajput found hanging in his Bandra apartment on Sunday morning. He was 34.

An accidental death report will be registered on the basis of preliminary information. No suicide note found

Police claim they did not find any foul play in their initial investigation

His died days after his former manager, Disha Salian (28), ended her life by jumping from a high-rise on June 9

His body was later brought to the Dr R N Cooper Municipal General Hospital in Juhu. He is survived by his father and four elder sisters | **P6**

## ನಿಮ್ಮ ಬಟ್ಟೆ ಹಾಯಿಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹರಡಬಹುದು ಎಂಬುದು ನಿಮಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತೇ?

ಇಂದು ಕೊಳವೆ ಎಂದರೆ ಕೇವಲ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಕೇವಲ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆಗಳು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿವೆ. ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ದೋಣಿ ಅರಣ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಬಟ್ಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ಷಮಿಸಿ ಕೊಳವೆ. ಕೊಳವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬಟ್ಟೆಗಳನ್ನು 30°C ನಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಳೆಯಿರಿ

ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು

ಮುಖ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಳನ್ನು

**ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿರಿ, ಅರಣ್ಯವಂತರಾಗಿರಿ.**